

December 5, 2006

Editor
Voices
90 Middle Quarter Mall
Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798

To the Editor,

The number one concern for me with this reconfiguration plan is the education of Region 14 children. From everything that I have read, this K – 2, 3 – 5 reconfiguration plan will be detrimental to students' learning. No one has shown me anything to prove otherwise.

For some in the community, I imagine that education is not a top priority. This is fine and understandable. This reconfiguration plan, however, will affect everyone in the community, even those who do not have children in the schools. More bus and automobile traffic will travel on roads such as Flanders. Economically, our local businesses and real estate values may be affected as well.

Repeatedly, people have suggested that this reconfiguration plan is fiscally responsible. Will this plan cost less or more for taxpayers? Mitchell Elementary School (to become an intermediate school) absolutely needs to be renovated and the figure for that is roughly \$30 million. People have continually asked to see all of the monetary costs of this plan. Dr. Cronin has said he will disclose costs as they are known. They do not know how much this plan will cost to implement. If they do not have the figures, then how can anyone suggest that this plan is fiscally responsible? One figure that we do know is that the added cost of buses to carry out this plan will be (conservatively) \$50,000 annually.

People in both Woodbury and Bethlehem are very concerned about both the short and long-term effects of this reconfiguration plan. Please show your support for community schools. Join us for a “Rally on the Bethlehem Green” on Saturday, December 16 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. A petition for a formal board hearing regarding reconfiguration will be circulated. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact www.saveregion14elementary.com or call 203-266-5515.

Sincerely,

Valerie DiLorenzo
Bethlehem

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